

STEWARDSHIP

SCRIPTURAL TEACHINGS

As Christians, what is our role as stewards of this planet earth? You might be surprised to know.
Read Genesis 1:26-28

Just a reminder of the obvious about stewardship! Read Job 41:11

We must never forget this central foundational stewardship truth. Read Psalm 24:1

Jesus warns us as stewards to not get attached to what we manage. Psalm 62:10

“Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before obscure men (Proverbs 22:29).” Stewards strive for excellence.

Proverbs 23:7 (NASB) tells us, “For as (a man) thinks within himself, so he is.”
Do you “think within yourself” like a steward or like an owner?

Proverbs 25:28, “A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.”
Self-control is a key characteristic of a steward.

A good steward sees danger up ahead and avoids it. Read Proverbs 27:12

The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You. (Isaiah 26:3)
The mind of the steward.

We are called to be stewards of a gospel that is burning so hot in our bones that we cannot hold it in.
Read Jeremiah 20:9

Earth stewards: “Is it too slight a thing for you that you should feed in the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pastures? Or that you should drink of the clear waters, that you must foul the rest with your feet” (Ezekiel 34:18)?

A good steward knows to treasure relationships more than possessions because, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21).”



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SCRIPTURAL TEACHINGS

Matthew 28:19-20 is called the Great Commission, not the “Great Suggestion.”

The proclamation of the gospel is our number one stewardship priority.

Jesus said, “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you (John 15:18).”

Steward, if the world DOESN'T hate you—why not?

Give to everyone who asks of you, and do not demand your possessions back from the one who takes them.

(Luke 6:30) Is this you, steward?

Are you aware of the incredible stewardship task Paul gives us in Romans 12:1-2?

Christ calls us to accept who we are—to respond to His love by living humbly as His servants and by being stewards of the mysteries of God. I Corinthians 4:1-2

How is a steward judged as to his worthiness as a steward? I Corinthians 4:1-2

Do you want a difficult stewardship challenge? Watch this Stewardship Read I Corinthians 9:25

As a steward of God's body, how are you doing in keeping your body under control? I Corinthians 9:25

I Corinthians 9:25 says, “But I discipline my body and keep it under control.”

Controlling our bodies is a very challenging stewardship responsibility.

“I discipline my body & keep it under control.” Controlled bodies, a challenging stewardship task” I Corinthians 9:25! Self-control means being UNDER control, not being the one IN control.

Stewards live lives that are UNDER the control of the Owner!

In Ephesians 3:2 Paul writes, “...you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you...”

As a steward of the time God has entrusted to you, how should you spend your time? Read Ephesians 5:15-17

The most precious possession a steward has been entrusted with is time. Read Ephesians 5:15-17

What does humility have to do with stewardship? Read Philippians 2:3

JAY LINK

There is no better example of a steward than when he gives to others without any consideration of their worthiness to receive his gift.

For a steward, radical Christianity is not the spiritual DESTINATION, it is the spiritual STARTING POINT.

Steward, my advice to you: Live simply, give more, expect less.

If living the surrendered, obedient life of a steward were easy, everyone would be doing it! Of all that God has entrusted to us to steward, what would you say is your ultimate stewardship responsibility? The gospel!

Stewards must continually be in a HEAVENLY state of mind, even though they are in living in the midst of EARTHLY things.

Stewards recognize God as the origin of life-giver, freedom-source, and all they have,
and see themselves as caretakers of God's gifts.

We are stewards of the time God gives us. Why do we struggle so hard to live and enjoy the present?

The initial response of a good steward may be "Lord, I don't want to do that!"
The ultimate response of a good steward is, "Yes, Lord!"

Our practical rejection of a life of devoted stewardship is an example of how our self
gets in the way of God's best for us.

How we choose to make money with His money is a very important area of life-stewardship.
Are you investing in what pleases Him?

As a steward of the time God has entrusted to you, how should you spend your time?

A steward is one who does not have to consult his balance sheet to see how wealthy he really is.

God gave man dominion over earth. Let's show restraint in our buying, vigilance in our recycling,
wisdom in our disposal. God calls this stewardship.

As stewards, we recognize nothing is ours—we're only caretakers. When we accept this,
the burden of holding on to our possessions is lifted.

One of the greatest gifts God gives us is 24 hours each day. A gift of time is a good place
to start living as a Christian steward.

Our ultimate objective as stewards of God's property is to do with it what
He (owner) wants us (managers) to do with it.

Pastors remember: Good stewards are formed. They are not forced.

"Good steward" is not a title. It is the way we live—like Jesus Christ.

Stewardship of the world is expressed by jubilant appreciation of nature,
whose God-given beauty not even exploitation and abuse has destroyed.

Are stewarding your mind? Sin does not begin with the act of murder,
but rather with the mere thoughts of anger.

Stewardship is what I do after I say, "I surrender."

A steward will seek to disciple those who are younger, not so they may someday FILL HIS SHOES,
but so they may someday STAND ON HIS SHOULDERS.

Do you have a CARNAL Mind, a CONFLICTED Mind, or a CONVERTED Mind?
A good steward is striving for the third.

A steward's greatest enemy is selfishness.

A steward never forgets to whom he belongs.

A responsible steward understands that every FINANCIAL decision is, at its core,

Steward, have you become numb to the world and the evil in it?

As a steward, we must all carefully consider what we are willing to trade away in life
and what we get back in the trade.

The only stewardship question is, “God, what do You want me to do with all that You have entrusted to me?”

Stewards are called to make disciples, not just converts — to grow the church deep, not just wide.

Steward remember: Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is God’s gift,
and that’s why we call it the present.

Church stewards, keep in mind that crowds do not reproduce crowds, but disciples do reproduce disciples.

Steward, are we going to trust in our stuff, or are we going to trust in the One who has provided the stuff?

Remember fellow steward: Man has responsibility, not ownership.

As stewards we need to pray, “Lord, let me be in your will, not in your way.”

Steward, have you ever been inconsistent in your duty and your obligation to Christ
because His will and your will didn’t align?

“When the student is ready, the teacher will appear.” A good steward is always looking to be taught.

Stewardship is what I do after I say, “I believe.”

One critically important areas of stewardship can easily be wasted if we are not careful.

Steward, why not learn to enjoy the little things in your life -- there are so many of them.

A steward will out of necessity live the life of an alien and stranger in a world of people
who mistakenly think they are in charge here.

I’ve never even seen your balance sheet and yet I know exactly what you are worth. Nothing, steward. \$0.
None of what you have is yours.

As stewards of the children God entrusts to us, we need to remember that allowing our children to
occasionally stumble may later prevent a fall.

Asking, “How do you SPEND your time?” is the right question to ask because we do spend our time –
and then it is gone. Steward, spend it wisely.

As stewards of our time, our greatest challenge is not allowing the tyranny of the URGENT to override the
priority of the IMPORTANT. Tough to do.

Stewardship at its core is not about what you give, it is about what is still left in your checkbook after you give
– how you manage what you retain.

Jesus in the Great Commission called us to make DISCIPLES, not to just make CROWDS.
As a steward of His commission, what are you focused on?

The stewardship question that changes everything – God, what do you want me to do with what YOU
have entrusted to me. Ask it daily and it will change your life.

“We do not inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” It’s earth stewardship.

Stewardship is arranging your life in such a way that God can spend YOU!

Steward – If you are more focused on the HERE and NOW than the THEN and THERE, you might have just
contracted a case of affluenza. A serious illness!

The cornerstone of stewardship is the acknowledgment and consistent practice of allowing God
to direct what you do with what He has entrusted to you.

Remember: The most important things in life aren’t things, and the best things in life are always free.
To broaden your perspective on stewardship, name five non-tangible things of which we are stewards.
It’s a whole lot more than just about stuff!

The one who truly loves, gives all, yet sacrifices nothing. As one of God’s stewards, do you truly love?

Stewardship is all about carrying out the wishes of the Owner.

Regarding our time: A good steward manages the TYRANNY of the URGENT by staying focused on the
PRIORITY of the IMPORTANT.

The greatest danger for America is not that we will have too LITTLE, but that we will have too MUCH!
A good steward sees the real danger!

As financial stewards we need to be clear that we do not investing in securities, we invest in IN securities.
May we never forget this.

For the steward, it is no longer “How do I want to spend my day?”
It is now, “God, how do you want me to spend Your day?”

There is a massive disconnect between what we intellectually acknowledge about stewardship
and how we practically live.

Steward: Our success is measured by what we BECOME, not by what we ACHIEVE.

Stewardship pleases God because the good steward is careful of creation, is respectful of justice and charity,
and is prayerful at all times.

Life stewardship reminds us that God’s gifts are not our own, that we have a trusteeship over them
and not an ownership.

The paradox of stewardship: stewardship starts with God and His abundance.
All too often we have a scarcity mentality.

It is not enough to just intellectually agree that the proclamation of the gospel is our top stewardship priority,
we must live like it is.

Stewards need to continually ask, "In my world of materials things, am I the SLAVE or am I the MASTER?"

A steward understands his need to GIVE is greater than a beggar's need to RECEIVE.

As a steward, my goal should be: "live conservatively so I can give liberally."

The cornerstone of stewardship is the acknowledgment and consistent practice of allowing God
to direct what you do with what He has entrusted to you.

As financial stewards we need to be clear, we are not investing in securities, we are investing in IN securities.
May we not forget this.

A wise steward knows the choices he makes today become the past he will get to live with
for the rest of his life.

Our practical rejection of a life of devoted stewardship is another example of how self gets
in the way of God's best for us.

God has entrusted to us His Gospel. Proclaiming that is our ultimate stewardship priority.

When it comes to your stewardship planning, can you say "Mission Accomplished?"
Are you evaluating how you are stewarding/managing your mind everyday?

There is no time like the present. Steward it well.
This is fundamentally a SPIRITUAL decision.

How can you know the difference between what you OWN and what you POSSESS? You will take everything
you OWN with you when you die! Stewards own nothing!

A steward focuses only on what He can control and not what is outside his control.

A mentor is someone whose hindsight can become your foresight. No matter your age, who is mentoring you?
Talk about life stewardship at its best!

The steward's definition of retirement: Take off the old tires, put on new tires and keep right on rolling!
RE-TIRE!

We can know we are addicted to something when we just won't give it up, even when we want to.
Stewards must not become addicted to anything.

It is not enough to just intellectually agree that the proclamation of the gospel is our top stewardship priority,
we must live like it is!

QUOTES FROM OTHERS

In the biblical understanding of giftedness, gifts are never really ours or for ourselves. We have nothing that was not given us. Our gifts are ultimately God's, and we are only "stewards"—responsible for the prudent management of property that is not our own.

Os Guinness

True stewardship changes hearts—transforming a person's mind and attitude about earthly possessions to steward all we possess for Him.

Bean

Life is a stewardship, not an ownership; a trust, not a gift. With a gift, you may do as you please; with a trust, you must give an account.

Moody

Holiness is the goal. Stewardship is how we get there.

Mahan

Vibrant stewards allow money to flow to and through their lives in ways that nourish us and our world.

Hermansen

The cornerstone of stewardship is gratitude. Do you have radical gratitude or perpetual dissatisfaction?

Mary Joe Letty

The pressure to upgrade our stock of stuff is relentlessly unidirectional, always ascending.

Schor

Steward, remember this: Nothing is more dangerous than to be blinded by prosperity.

Calvin

Steward, remember this: Without love or deeds, even the most brilliant count as nothing.

Thérèse de Lisieux

All Christians are but God's stewards. Everything we have is on loan from the Lord, entrusted to us for a while to use in serving Him.

MacArthur

It's the steward's job to find out what the owner wants done with his assets, then carry out his will.

Alcorn

...holistic stewardship, transformational generosity, workplace ministry, business as mission, and the theology of work movement all share a common point of origin in the biblical view of mission as whole-life discipleship. In other words, the essence of stewardship is about finding your place—that is, all the dimensions of your many callings—in God's economy of all things (oikonomia).

Stephen Grabill

If I have but enough for myself and family, I am steward only for myself and them; if I have more, I am but a steward of that abundance for others.

Herbert

QUOTES FROM OTHERS

When asked what kind of stewardship training the church provides to staff/board/volunteers, 40% to 50% of churches said "none."

ECFA

Vision casting has replaced doctrinal teaching.

Jeff Anderson

A steward manages assets for the owner's benefit. The steward carries no sense of entitlement to the assets he manages. It's his job to find out what the owner wants done with his assets, then carry out his will.

Randy Alcorn

Steward of your body: "Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food.

Hippocrates

If God was the owner, I was the manager. I needed to adopt a steward's mentality toward the assets He had entrusted - not given - to me. A steward manages assets for the owner's benefit. The steward carries no sense of entitlement to the assets he manages. It's his job to find out what the owner wants done with his assets, then carry out his will.

Randy Alcorn

We should use all our money for the Lord. This is, we should use all our money in a way that God would approve. In that sense, all of our money is to be given to the Lord. Stewardship is to be total, not partial.

Wayne Mack

Stewardship is about doing what God wants us to do, so we can become who he wants us to be.

Jim Liske

Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.

C.S. Lewis

Remember steward, "God is the author of all worthy ideas, the thought behind all good aspirations, and the owner of every moment."

Chuck Roost

Christians are but God's stewards. Everything we have is on loan from the Lord, entrusted to us for a while to use in serving Him.

John MacArthur

Steward, "He who gives what he would as readily throw away, gives without generosity; for the essence of generosity is in self-sacrifice."

J. Taylor

A man of wealth is but a steward for the good of mankind.

Peter Cooper

Stewardship is nothing less than a complete lifestyle, a total accountability and responsibility before God.

Vallet

QUOTES FROM OTHERS

How a steward evaluates things: "I judge all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity."
John Wesley

One day money will be useless. While it is still useful, the believer (steward)
with foresight will use it for eternal good.
Randy Alcorn

Five minutes after you die, you will know how you should have lived.
Randy Alcorn

Steward: "We must make the invisible kingdom visible in our midst."
John Calvin

Steward: "Use what talent you possess: The woods would be very silent if no birds sang
except those that sang best."
Henry Van Dyke

Steward listen: "You always know you have been in the presence of a Christian
by the trail of light they leave behind."
Ruskin

We focus on raising funds, not raising stewards. In America today, the most prevalent sin
among Christians is our materialism and greed.
Jeff Iorg

Preachers are afraid to confront materialism as a core problem
and offer the training needed to correct poor stewardship.
Jeff Iorg

Regrettably, not much intentional training on stewardship is happening in churches today.
Towns & Bird

Church members have changed from stewards to consumers-demanding higher levels of comfort and services
than previous generations.
Towns & Bird

Note that the QUOTES FROM OTHERS are in the process of being verified; as of this posting, they have not been traced back to their original source.

ABOUT E. G. "JAY" LINK

Jay Link, Director of Stewardship Planning at Taylor University, spent 35 years counseling Christian families to build customized Master Stewardship Plans. He is an author, a mentor to hundreds of financial advisors and attorneys, and started his career as a pastor. His passion is helping Christian families use all the Lord has entrusted to them for Kingdom-building purposes.